

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 am THE SUNDAY SERVICE

Holy Communion - first Sunday of each month

(Please refer to Diary on page 8 for details of all Services as arrangements may vary).

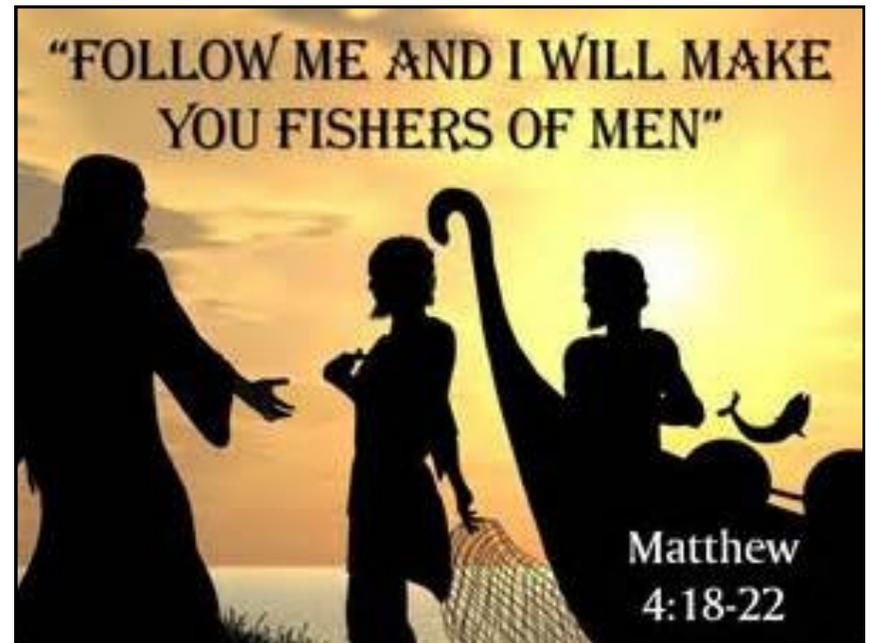
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Friendship Circle Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Wednesday	10.30am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship at 1.30 pm.
Thursday	2.00pm	Film Club (monthly)
Friday	6.15 - 7.45pm 6.15 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years) Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Scouts (10½-14 years) Explorer Scouts (14-18 years)
Saturday	9.00 - 11.00am 10.00am	The Big Breakfast (monthly on 2 nd . Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk

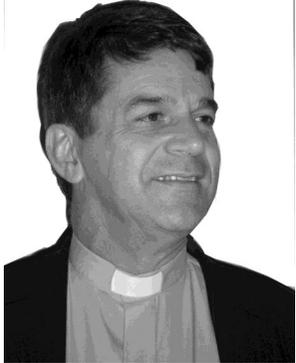
Radford Road Church Leamington Spa CV31 1NF

Magazine



April 2016

THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

As we enter the post-Easter period and continue to delight in the resurrection we share the same emotions which the disciples must have experienced. After the gruesome reality of Good Friday they must adapt quickly to a new way of life and living. Jesus is alive! They must banish any memory of their recent grief and unbelief and get alongside the newly resurrected and more intent Jesus. We don't have much

detail of what he did during the 40 days after the resurrection but we do know he restored the relationship with Simon Peter, upon whom Jesus was determined to build his Church, and re-energised the other disciples.

The challenge for all of us today is to avoid just going back to 'normal' after Easter. We must work hard to retain the memory of our Easter joy and celebration; and, like the disciples, be re-energised in our faith so that we too are ready to engage in a new way with the risen Christ.

But then we must wait, and be ready, to be equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit when the day of Pentecost comes. In this way we can be the Easter People we must be, beacons of Christ-light in the world today, and importantly, here in Leamington Spa.

In the name of Christ,

Andy

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church jamesichurch@hotmail.com
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise
ORGANIST	Margaret Height
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall matthewdrinkhall@live.co.uk
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody jan.doody@gmail.com
SCOUTS	Graham Robbins
EXPLORER SCOUTS (Trinity)	Deb Cooper deb.desc@yahoo.co.uk
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise Kalus louise@blueshadownet.co.uk
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk
CARETAKER	Pat Langley

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Ap 3	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Ap 10	Joan Bicknell	Julia Morris & Jane Grunfeld	Jane & Frank Grunfeld	Kath
Ap 17	Rosemary Moore	Brenda & Alan Watts	Jean Young	Tony
Ap 24	Sue Darlison	Janice Dean & Veronica Brown	Ann Blower	Hazel
May 1	Ann Blower	Jean Young & Sally Cligg		Margaret
May 8	Julia Morris	Margaret Bull & Joyce Limmage	Hazel Hobbs	Hazel

Would the first person on the Coffee Rota please bring 2 pints of milk and the second bring biscuits. Thank you!

We thank all those who have promised flowers for the church and also thank the arrangers for using their time and talents in this way.

PRAYER LINE

If you have a prayer request call **07594526888** and leave a message on our answer machine. Alternatively you can email prayer requests to **rrchurchpray@hotmail.co.uk** or speak with Jane Grunfeld or Hazel Hobbs. Our prayer group at the church will commit to praying for those requests.

Marjorie Carrier would welcome your contributions for the May Magazine by Sunday April 17th at the latest, and preferably earlier, please.
Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



The family of **Thelma Richards** is very much in our thoughts and prayers. Thelma's funeral took place at Radford Road Church at noon on Tuesday March 29th.

Anne & Kingsley Pilling have had a really difficult time during the past weeks. Anne is now home after her second operation and is hoping that Kingsley will return home soon after spending some weeks in respite care in Nottingham.

We continue to hold **John Farrington** in our prayers. After having a fall at home he doesn't feel well enough to come to church at the moment.

Joyce Limmage, Mavis Peace and Derek Hubbard have all had short stays in hospital but all have now returned to their homes.

Gill Hubbard is recovering after fracturing her leg in a fall. At present she is being cared for at Homewood. She is in good spirits and wishes to be remembered to all her friends at Radford Road.

Clarice Thompson is still not well enough to attend church. We remember her and other housebound friends in our prayers.

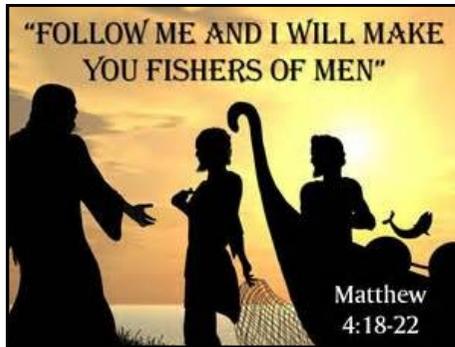
Friends are like Maths!

They multiply your joy,
 And divide your sorrow . . .
 They subtract the past,
 And add to tomorrow . . .
 They calculate the need
 Deep in your heart,
 And are always greater
 Than the sum of their parts!

From the Elders:

It was brought to our attention that when Congregational Meetings are held in the Vestibule some people are having difficulty hearing. In future microphones will be used at these meetings.

OUR COVER PICTURE



Vocations Sunday 17th April 2016

Vocations Sunday is the day for churches to encourage everyone to reflect, discover and recognise God's call to them.

God calls us to change: to become more Christ-like. We are called to live out our lives in response to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That process began in our

baptism, but it continues through prayer, through the reading of the scriptures and through the receiving of Holy Communion. One of the constant themes in the New Testament is that lives touched by Christ were changed. What is true for the characters of the New Testament is true for us. As we encounter and respond to Christ we cannot help but be changed.

Lord, as you called your disciples, call us now

Open our ears to listen to your calling

Open our eyes to see you

Open our hearts to your love

Help us to hear you, to experience your presence with us and to love you.

And loving you, let us serve you, our servant King. Amen

FINANCES – 2016

Income: February Collections etc. (4 weeks) £1537.56

The Mission Project

We have now raised **£876.36** towards our target of £1000 for the House of Light and Hope which helps to educate Syrian children in Lebanon. This is tremendous news and we thank those who have worked so hard to raise this money. We plan to present a cheque to Emmanuel Toutoungi for The House of Light and Hope at a morning service in August or September.

Tina Wise

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BISHOP FRANCIS ASBURY



Francis Asbury was born at Hamstead Bridge, Staffordshire, on August 20th or 21st 1745, the son of Elizabeth and Joseph Asbury. Wanting him to become the Archbishop of Canterbury, his mother read the Bible to him, sang him hymns, and prayed over him.

Asbury became a local Methodist lay preacher at the age of 18 and four years later was appointed a travelling preacher. In July 1771 Francis Asbury went to John Wesley's Chapel (the New Room) in Bristol to attend the annual conference of Wesley's preachers. There, Wesley asked his assembled preachers: "Our brethren in America call aloud for help. Who are willing to go over to help them?" Francis Asbury took up the challenge, went back to say farewell to his parents and set sail on the River Avon to the New World.

Within the first 17 days of being in the colonies, Asbury preached in Philadelphia and New York and during the first year he preached in 25 different settlements in courthouses, public houses, tobacco houses, fields and public squares. Wherever Asbury went, a crowd would assemble to hear him.

When the American War of Independence broke out in 1776, he and James Dempster were the only Methodist ministers to remain in America. As worldly powers waged war over money, territory and pride, Asbury was proclaiming the Kingdom of God every night and day as he rode on horseback from meeting to meeting.

In 1780, he met the freedman Henry "Black Harry" Hosier, a meeting Asbury considered "providentially arranged"! Hosier served as his driver and guide and, though illiterate, memorized long passages of the Bible while Asbury read them aloud during their travels. Hosier, though never ordained, eventually became a famous preacher in his own right, the first African American to preach directly to a white congregation in the United States

In 1784, John Wesley named Asbury and Thomas Coke as co-superintendents of the work in America. The Christmas Conference that year marked the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. For the next 32 years, Asbury led all the Methodists in America.

For the remainder of his life he rode an average of 6,000 miles each year, preaching virtually every day and conducting meetings and conferences. Under his direction, the church grew from 1,200 to 214,000 members and 700 ordained preachers. Among the men he ordained was Richard Allen in Philadelphia, the first black minister in the United States.

In 1814 his health started to fail. He was so dedicated to the cause that he was regularly ill, suffering from frequent colds, coughs, fevers, headaches, ulcers and eventually chronic rheumatism – which eventually forced him from his horse and into a carriage. In 1816 he started to regain strength and continued his preaching journey. He preached his last sermon in Richmond, Virginia on March 24th, and died at the home of George Arnold near Fredericksburg on March 31st 1816.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON



CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday April 16th 2016 9.45am for 10am

KENILWORTH CASTLE AND ABBEY FIELDS 2-3mls.

Meet in the Castle Farm Recreation Centre Car Park, Fishponds Rd.,
Kenilworth

Optional Lunch at the Green Man Pub.

Leaders: Edward McPherson and David Bostock

WARWICK DISTRICT FAITHS' TRAIL

Saturday April 16th in Leamington

Everyone is invited to attend and the trail will enable people to walk, talk and learn about different faiths in our community. People may join the Faiths' Trail at any venue.

Programme:

10.00am The Polish Church (Roman Catholic) on the High Street

11.00am The Life Community Church in Charlotte Street

12.15pm Baitul Ehsan Mosque, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Riverside,
Adelaide Road, Leamington

1.15 pm Lunch

Please note that you will be required to cover your head and legs inside the mosque. You may bring your own scarf, cap or hat.

Please email the names of those wishing to attend to wdfaitsfoum@yahoo.com

For further details please contact Margaret Sheldon.

FILM CLUB

Thursday April 21st at 2.00pm

when you can enjoy

“LAST CHANCE HARVEY”

Harvey Shine has lost his job as a jingle writer. His daughter has chosen her step-father to walk her down the aisle for her wedding instead of Harvey. However, following an unexpected meeting with Kate, things finally look as though they are about to change for the better.

It's a story about first loves, last chances and everything in between.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person

VISIT BY CHILDREN OF CLAPHAM TERRACE SCHOOL TO RADFORD ROAD CHURCH

We were delighted to welcome the children of Clapham Terrace Nursery and Reception class to Radford Road Church on Friday morning March 18th. The children were told a simple form of the Easter story and then took part in several craft activities.

It was a splendid morning enjoyed by children, staff, parents and organisers.

40 DAYS AND & NIGHTS

Thursday March 24th 9:30am-12:00 noon.



At the time of writing this children's activity morning has not taken place but children and helpers are looking forward to a fun-filled morning where the children will learn of Jesus' preparation for the events which took place at Easter.

Our thanks go to Jane for being the mastermind and organiser of these splendid activity days when the church has the opportunity of teaching children about God's love for us all.

If you haven't been to one of these mornings do consider joining us in the summer. The adults learn a lot by seeing the life of Jesus through the eyes of children.

5 STARS FOR OUR KITCHEN HYGIENE

An Environmental Health Inspection was carried out in the church kitchen on January 12th and we have gained a 5 star award. To maintain this rating and to ensure good health hygiene we need to be vigilant with cleanliness and tidiness in the kitchen.

It is important that:

- everyone who uses the kitchen leaves it clean and tidy.
- all surfaces are wiped down with surface cleaner.
- dish cloths are thrown away at the end of each session.
- any used tea towels and towels are placed in the box and not left hanging on the radiator.

If you are able, please take the tea towels and towels home to wash. If this is not possible please make sure that used tea towels are placed in the box so that they cannot be re-used.

If you are able please wash the kitchen floor.

Expiry date on food, including milk, must be checked before use.

From the beginning of April there will be a kitchen opening and closing check list to fill in when hot food is being served i.e. Wednesday lunches and Big Breakfast. It does not apply to the serving of tea and coffee.

Many thanks to all who maintain the cleanliness of our kitchen.



HOUSE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

each Friday at
135, Leam Terrace
at 7.30pm

The House Group would be delighted to welcome others who would like to share in the evening.

The Group are studying the Book of Esther.

Please see James for further details.



THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST is on April 9th at 9.00am



Come along and bring your friends and smell the sizzling bacon as you come through the door to our Big Breakfast.

Proceeds to our Mission Project

“The House of Light and Hope”.

PEOPLE OF THE WAY

Mr Alan Yates and the Revd. Kevin Watson, the moderators-elect of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, have announced that the theme for 2016 Assembly, and their two years in office, will be 'People of the Way'. The theme arose from two complementary convictions:

- the need to return to the fundamental teaching of Christ,
- a desire for the church to be more open to all of God's people.

Mr Yates explains: 'We are all People of the Way and we know that local churches are creative in the ways they express their faith, worship God and engage with their communities. We want churches to shout about the good things they are doing – and so we are asking every congregation of the United Reformed Church to send us photos of the glorious variety and vitality of their church life – and we'll use the best of them in a specially-arranged display at Assembly.' (The United Reformed Church General Assembly runs this year from 8 to 11 July in Southport).

Images of activities, worship and community connections, together with portraits of church people will all contribute to the display – showcasing just how broad and dynamic is the life of the United Reformed Church.

Kevin Watson concludes: 'It is spiritually powerful that the issues discussed and the decisions made at the General Assembly will be in the presence of images of all the congregations of the whole denomination – send in your images now and be part of this.'

If you have any photographs of activities at Radford Road which you feel are suitable for this display please email them to James asap.

You must also confirm that you are the copyright owner of the images and that you grant permission for the United Reformed Church to use them in print and online media. Please also confirm that you have consent for any children and vulnerable adults who are pictured.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

“Passionate Worship means a church cares enough about its services to offer its best, its utmost, its highest”

A Circuit Together Forum will be held at 9.30am on Saturday April 16th at Northgate Methodist Church, Warwick. This is an opportunity to reflect with preachers, musicians, leaders and congregation members so that we can give to God the best we can in worship together.

All are welcome.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN APRIL

A monthly Prayer Diary has been created to encourage the Church family to focus prayers on a daily basis, together with the concerns raised in the weekly news sheet.

1st	The family of Thelma Richards	16th	Mary Coles
2nd	Jean Innes	17th	Wendy
3rd	Rev. Dawn Saunders	18th	Rev. James Church
4th	The Uniformed Organisations	19th	Margaret & Chris
5th	Hilda & Ken	20th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
6th	Jessie Lawson	21st	The Bible Study Group
7th	Mid-Week Worship & Wednesday Lunch	22nd	The Film Club
8th	Valerie	23rd	The Queen's Birthday Tea Party
9th	Big Breakfast	24th	The Night Shelter
10th	Jane & family	25th	The Elders of the Church
11th	The Friendship Circle	26th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
12th	Rev. Andy Laird	27th	Kit & Hugh Smith
13th	The Faith Forum	28th	Clarice
14th	Joyce Hill	29th	John Farringdon
15th	The House of Light and Hope	30th	Clive Fowle's work

You are invited to take a pebble from the basket on the Table of Remembrance, sit or stand quietly and concentrate on your particular concern. Then hold or stroke your pebble – feel your hurt, worry, loneliness, pain, guilt, unhappiness or anxiety flowing into your stone. Feel it warm in your hand. If you are praying for someone else, feel your love and compassion flowing into your pebble.

When you are ready, leave your pebble at the cross of Jesus. Leave it with your concerns, so that Jesus can deal with it. Then go – knowing that Jesus loves and cares about you.

There is also a Book of Prayer. Any situation entered in the book will be prayed for at Friday Bible Study and included in the monthly Prayer Diary.

JAMES IS RUNNING IN THE LONDON MARATHON!



Don't forget that on Sunday 24th April James will be running in the London Marathon. He is running in memory of Ashley Doughty, a young man from Lillington Free Church who died on Easter Day 2014 (20th April) after being treated over several months for a brain tumour. The charity Cancer and Leukaemia in Children named after the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. (CLIC Sargent) supported Ashley throughout

his illness and James hopes to raise money for this important charity. If you have not yet sponsored James, please do so by signing up on the sponsor forms so that a goodly amount of money can be donated to this worthwhile charity.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016



The people of Radford Road Church were delighted to host this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service which was held on Friday March 4th. It was pleasing to see many people from different churches in the town joining together for this annual service and to know that women all over the world

were participating in identical services. This year the International Committee had invited the women of Cuba to compile the service and they had chosen the theme 'Receive children, receive me' which Rev. Andy Laird spoke about. Margaret Sheldon coordinated the service and we learned of Cuba's history, geography, culture and everyday life. Kath Gardner was the soloist, accompanied on the organ by Margaret Height.

Following the service tea and home-made cakes were enjoyed.

Many thanks to everyone who had prepared the church and provided and served refreshments.

Joyce Limmage

Special thanks to Joyce Limmage and Margaret Sheldon who are Radford Road's representatives on the local WWDP Committee.

Also thanks to Jean Young for supplying the photograph. More pictures are on the church web site.

APRIL DIARY 2016

Sun	3	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	5	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle: Members' Afternoon Letter "N"
Wed	6	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	8	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	9	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	10	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Miss Carol Cave
Tues	12	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Reflections on the reign of Queen Elizabeth
Wed	13	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by talk by Marjorie & John Carrier about our Mission Project, "The House of Light and Hope"
Fri	15	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	16	10.00am	Warwick District Faiths' Trail
Sun	17	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird.
Tues	19	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle: George Jones
Wed	20	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Thurs	21	2.00pm	Film Club "Last Chance Harvey"
Fri	22	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	23	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea Party to celebrate the 90 th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
Sun	24	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Peter Powers, the Methodist Superintendent
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle: The Bard of Avon - a special anniversary
Tues	26	10.30am	Coffee Morning
Wed	27	12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by talk about Christian Aid with C.A. Worker Luiz Conceicao.
Fri	29	7.30pm	No House Group



THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

You are invited to an afternoon tea party and special film about the Queen to mark Her Majesty's special birthday.

The Celebration Tea Party will be held **at 3.00pm on Saturday April 23rd** (just 2 days after Queen Elizabeth II's actual birthday), and, incidentally, the supposed date of William Shakespeare's birth and the date of his death in 1616. Tickets (price £6.00) are available from Margaret Bull and, for catering purposes, need to be purchased before April 17th.

All guests will also receive a special commemorative gift to mark this occasion. A letter sending loyal greetings and birthday congratulations is being sent to Her Majesty from Radford Road Church.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 15TH - 21ST

Could you deliver envelopes in a few streets?

Could you spare an hour or two to go individually, or with others, and knock on doors to collect the envelopes?

We will be organising our own Sponsored Walk around the Jephson Gardens at 8.00am on Sat. May 14th and then returning to church to recover at the Big Breakfast.

Could you be a walker?

Could you sponsor the walkers?

Please consider how you can help and remember the work of Christian Aid in your prayers.

Please add your name to the chart in the Church Vestibule to offer your help as a collector, walker or sponsor.

THE BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS HAD A SLEEPOVER

Recently 20 Rainbows and Brownies enjoyed a day together and 15 were brave enough to sleep over. The theme was "Under the Sea" and we had great fun building a submarine and an underwater cave. There are some excellent photographs of the children's activities on the church web-site:

www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk Do have a look if you are able.

A very enjoyable (but tiring!) sleepover was had by all.

Andy Laird continued our theme with a Sunday service based on an underwater theme. The Rainbows certainly listened attentively to Jonah's experiences as one was heard recounting the story to her grandparents later in the day. She went into great detail about how Jonah was spat out of the whale complete with a great description of the goo that came with him!